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SECURITY COUNCIL
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Letter dated 11 November 1991 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, and with reference to my earlier letters, in particular the letter dated 30 May 1991 circulated as document A/46/207-S/22654, I have the honour to inform you of the following:

Even as the international community redoubles its efforts to establish an equitable and comprehensive peace in the Middle East on the basis of the implementation of the resolutions of the United Nations, in particular Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973), and with the Madrid peace conference hardly concluded, the Israeli Minister of Agriculture, Rafael Aitan, accompanied by the Israeli Minister of Housing, Ariel Sharon, was inaugurating a new settlement in the occupied Syrian Golan which has been given the name of Kilaa and is in principle to be settled by 70 families of Jewish emigrants from the Soviet Union. In the speech which he gave on this occasion, the Israeli Minister of Housing, Sharon, called for the expansion of the Jewish population in the Golan in order to ensure its control by Israel.

It is clear that this action by Israel constitutes a new and serious violation of the resolutions of the United Nations, in particular Security Council resolutions 465 (1980) and 497 (1981), and provides further confirmation of Israel's intention to maintain its annexation of the occupied Syrian Golan and to impose this solution by means of a demographic, economic and social fait accompli in pursuit of its colonizing and expansionist policy. Furthermore, these actions also constitute a flagrant violation of the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, in particular its article 49.

The fact that Israel's establishment of a new settlement at Kilaa in the occupied Syrian Golan and the statements made by the Israeli Minister of Housing, Sharon, have coincided with the holding of the Madrid peace conference reaffirms yet again Israel's true intentions of maintaining its occupation and carrying out its expansionist plans at the expense of the Arab territories, even though such actions hinder international peace efforts. This point was made by Mr. James Baker, Secretary of State of the United States of America and one of the sponsors of the peace conference, in his comments on the establishment of the new Kilaa settlement, when he said that the United States found it difficult to understand how the establishment of a new settlement could contribute to the peace process at this time. Similarly, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, commenting on the establishment of the new settlement in statements made for Spanish television on 6 November 1991, appealed to Israel to suspend its colonization of the occupied Arab territories and not to jeopardize the Middle East peace talks.

As of today, 13,400 Jewish settlers have installed themselves in the occupied Syrian Golan, while the number of settlements established by the occupying Power, Israel, totals 43. Israel's policy of continuing to establish settlements in the occupied Arab territories reveals yet again its determination to defy international legality and the international community and its lack of interest in fostering a suitable atmosphere for serious progress in the process of establishing an equitable and comprehensive peace in the Middle East and for compliance with Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973) and the other resolutions of the United Nations pertaining to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The Syrian Arab Republic believes that the resolutions of the United Nations must be complied with and implemented and that international legality must be respected, for the observance of those fundamental principles has now come to be a legitimate international demand and even a characteristic and dominant feature of international relations. Today there is no doubt that the international community is capable of bringing this legality fully to bear on any State which violates it. Failure to comply with the resolutions of the United Nations constitutes a violation of international legality; accordingly the United Nations must now deal with this violation by taking the vigorous action which the situation demands.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 35, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Issa AWAD
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Ambassador Extraordinary and
Plenipotentiary